**New Occupational Projection Data Files**
July 2005

New data files are now available with this release of occupational projections. The new data files provide details for regions that were previously grouped together in the "Balance of State" data files. Data files for previous projections covered Arizona Statewide, Phoenix MSA, Tucson MSA, and Balance of State. The Balance of State data included all areas of the state outside of Phoenix MSA and Tucson MSA.

The new data files now include separate data for three Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs): Flagstaff MSA, Prescott MSA, and Yuma MSA. These new data files provide occupational projections data at the same detail level as the files for Arizona, Phoenix MSA, and Tucson MSA. However, in these smaller MSAs, there may be more suppression due to confidentiality issues than in the larger MSAs. Note that Flagstaff MSA = Coconino County, Phoenix MSA = Maricopa + Pinal Counties, Prescott MSA = Yavapai County, Tucson = Pima County, and Yuma MSA = Yuma County.

For the new occupational projections, the remaining counties are grouped as follows: Apache + Navajo + Gila (northeast counties); Mohave + Lapaz (western counties); Cochise + Santa Cruz + Graham +Greenlee (southeast counties). The projections for these regions are displayed at the major and minor occupational group levels only because of confidentiality suppression issues. Occupational titles displayed in bold font are the major occupational groups of the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. Major occupational groups of the SOC are a composite of all occupations classified under the major group heading. Occupation codes ending in 000 (e.g. 11-1000, 11-2000, 11-3000, etc) are minor occupational groups of the SOC system, and are composites of all the detailed occupations classified under the minor group heading. For more information on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system, go to www.bls.gov/soc/socguide.htm

For more information on occupational projections, visit:
http://stats.bls.gov/emp/optd/home.htm